(b) if so, the number of colleges selected for the purpose and the amount released, so far, to each of them; and

(c) the number of colleges selected from Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have recently introduced a pilot project for providing financial assistance to the selected Government Medical Colleges for strengthening of diagnostic facilities. Till date, no Government Medical College has been selected for release of assistance under this project.

Conversion of Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore as National Cancer Institute

40. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has requested to convert Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore as National Cancer Institute;

(b) whether Government are aware that the Institute is catering to the patients of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and other States; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Under the National Cancer Control Programme there is no scheme to declare any organisation as National Cancer Institute. The Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore has already been recognised as Regional Cancer Centre. It is the only Regional Cancer Centre in the State of Karnataka and is receiving financial assistance from Ministry @ Rs. 75.00 lakhs every year. In addition to above, this Ministry had also released Rs. 1.00 crore for purchase of Brachy-Therapy machine to the Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore during the year 1999-2000.

Proposals for Establishment of New Medical Colleges in Kerala

41. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of proposals for establishment of New Medical Colleges in the State of Kerala are pending with Government for clearance/ approval;